



NEWS RELEASE

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\$226,738 USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT TO HOWARDVILLE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Howardville was the setting for a \$226,738 mock check presentation from U.S. Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson to Jim Farr, President of the Howardville Development Corporation on October 21, 2004.

"In rural Missouri, public safety is a major concern. Luckily, men and women in our communities volunteer for and support our rural firefighters and first responders. This grant is an opportunity to greatly enhance public safety and service in Howardville, and I am very proud to be part of this event," Emerson said. "The U.S. Department of Agriculture and Rural Development have done a wonderful job to identify this opportunity and work with local officials to make it a reality."

Community Facility Direct Loan and Grant funds will be used to construct a new facility to house the Howardville Public Safety and Service Building. The new building will provide 2900 sq.ft. for a city hall, police station and fire department. Rural Development funds will also be used to purchase new fire fighting and administrative equipment for the Howardville Development Corporation.

"Rural Development is very proud to be able to assist communities in New Madrid County with these important projects," said Branum.

"The Howardville Development Corporation would not have successfully completed our bid for the Grant and Loan for the Public Safety Center without the wonderful assistance and endorsement from Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson. We the Howardville community greatly appreciate her fullest attention to her constituents in pursuit of this project. We, the citizens of Howardville, thank Congresswoman Emerson for remembering her constituents," said Jim Farr, President, Howardville Development Corporation.

"Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities," Branum added. "Appreciation is also extended to U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Cathy Walters, at Charleston Office, 831 S. Hwy 105, Charleston, Missouri 63834 or by calling 573-649-9947.

"Committed to the future of rural communities."

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